21 NOVEMBER 2024

NORTHERN 2 VCT PLC

UNAUDITED HALF-YEARLY FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Northern 2 VCT PLC is a Venture Capital Trust (VCT) managed by Mercia Fund Management Limited (the Manager). It invests mainly in unquoted venture capital holdings and aims to provide long-term tax-free returns to shareholders through a combination of dividend yield and capital growth.

Financial highlights (comparative figures as at 30 September 2023 and 31 March 2024)

Â	Â	**Six months ended 30 September 2024**	Six months ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 31 March 2024
Net assets	Â	**Â£127.5m**	**Â£113.9m**	**Â£119.5m**
Net asset value per share	Â	**57.2p**	**58.6p**	**57.3p**
Return per share	Â	Â Â	Â	
Revenue	Â	0.2p	0.3p	0.8p
Capital	Â	0.8p	0.6p	0.6p
Total	Â	**1.0p**	**0.9p**	**1.4p**
Dividend per share declared in respect of the period	Â	**1.7p**	**1.8p**	**3.0p**
Cumulative return to shareholders since launch	Â	Â Â	Â	
Net asset value per share	Â	57.2p	58.6p	57.3p
Dividends paid per share*	Â	140.3p	137.3p	139.1p
Net asset value plus dividends paid per share	Â	**197.5p**	**195.9p**	**196.4p**
Mid-market share price at end of period	Â	**55.0p**	**55.0p**	**54.5p**
Share price discount to net asset value	Â	**3.8%**	**6.1%**	**4.9%**
Tax-free dividend yield (based on the net asset value per share)**	Â	**5.0%**	**5.5%**	**5.1%**

*Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Excluding interim dividend not yet paid.

**Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â The dividend yield is calculated by dividing the dividends declared in the 12 month period ended on each reference date by the net asset value per share at the start of that period.

Enquiries:
James Sly / Sarah Williams, Mercia Asset Management PLC â€“ 0330 223 1430
Website: www.mercia.co.uk/vcts

HALF-YEARLY MANAGEMENT REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

There have been a significant number of developments in the last reporting period which are likely to have a long-term impact on your Company. The global political and economic climate remains volatile, as a result of conflict in both Europe and the Middle East and a degree of uncertainty following the US presidential election. The UK general election delivered a large parliamentary majority for the Labour party which commentators suggest may create a period of political stability. It is probably too early to be entirely clear about the longer term impact of the Chancellor of the Exchequerâ€™s recent budget, the objective of which was to set a path of economic growth, which of course aligns closely with your Companyâ€™s core objectives in respect of its investments. Perhaps most importantly the European Commission confirmed that the VCT investment schemes, which are so critical to financing early stage businesses, would be extended until April 2035. There has been some easing of inflationary pressures and a stabilisation in energy prices. Interest rates have fallen from the peak, but it is still uncertain as to how quickly that will continue. Your Company continues to deliver vital investments into early stage businesses providing ongoing support to its existing portfolio companies and generating returns from successful realisations.

Results and dividend
The Company achieved a return of 1.0 pence per share in the period (2023: 0.9p per share), equivalent to 1.9% of the audited net asset value (NAV) per share on 31 March 2024. After deducting the final dividend for the year to 31 March 2024 of 1.2p, paid in August 2024, the NAV per share at 30 September 2024 was 57.2Â pence.

It remains our objective to pay a dividend at least equivalent to 5% of the opening NAV in each year. The Board has declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31 March 2025 of 1.7 pence per share, which will be paid on 22 January 2025 to shareholders who are on the register on 20 December 2024.

Venture capital investment activity and portfolio update
We are pleased to report that a number of our venture investments have performed well over the period, reflected in an overall increase in the valuation of the unquoted portfolio. Where portfolio companies have struggled or are at risk of failure, we have also made a number of reductions in valuations to reflect our current assessment.

The unaudited total (realised and unrealised) gain on investments for the six month period to 30 September 2024 was Â£2.4 million (six months ended 30 September 2023: Â£2.1 million) of which Â£0.9 million related to net unrealised gains in the portfolio driven by commercial traction in several portfolio companies. As is to be expected in a portfolio of more than 50 companies, these increases have been partially offset by some value reductions where particular portfolio companies have struggled or are at risk of failure. Overall, total returns from the portfolio have shown resilience against a challenging economic backdrop.

During the reporting period we have continued to achieve realisations of our portfolio with Â£6.0 million of realisations. Notably, the Companyâ€™s investment in Gentronix, a biotechnology company that provides predictive toxicology solutions, was divested for net proceeds of Â£5.2 million, representing 4.5 times return on the original cost. The majority of this substantial gain on sale had already been reflected in prior accounting periods with Â£1.3 million of the gain recognised upon exit. Gentronix was one of the Companyâ€™s oldest investments, where the initial investment in 2007 was followed by two additional funding rounds.

Investment activity continued in the period, with Â£5.9 million invested across three existing and three new portfolio companies. The new portfolio companies are Ski Zoom (t/a Heidi) (Â£1.5 million investment), a booking platform for flexible winter mountain breaks, Culture AI (Â£1.4Â million), a cyber security training and monitoring platform, and Promethean Particles (Â£1.3 million), a developer of carbon capture and gas storage technologies. Follow-on capital of Â£1.7 million was also deployed to support the Companyâ€™s existing portfolio companies.

Following the period end, we exited one of our larger investments, The Climbing Hangar, at a modest increase on its valuation at 31 March 2024 but below cost, at just over 70% of our total investment cost. Based in Liverpool, we first invested in the company, which operated three indoor climbing centres, in August 2018 and supported the acquisition of five new sites through three additional funding rounds. However, Covid lockdowns severely impacted operations and delayed the company's ability to reach breakeven, creating a need for more capital investment. The company reached its limit for VCT funding and we were unable to offer further financial support. Whilst a disappointing financial result, the sale enables the company's operations to continue with new owners which are able to fund the company's continued expansion.

Shareholder issues
In April 2024 shares related to the second allotment of the 2023/24 share offer, totalling Â£20 million, were issued. This allotment saw the issuance of 17,376,231 new ordinary shares, yielding gross subscriptions of Â£10.4 million.

Our dividend investment scheme, which enables shareholders to invest their dividends in new ordinary shares free of dealing costs and with the benefit of the tax reliefs available on new VCT share subscriptions, continues to operate, with around 14% of total dividends reinvested by shareholders during the period.

We continue to experience a sustained demand for long-term growth capital for smaller companies in the UK. In order to continue to support our existing portfolio and invest in new early-stage opportunities, in September 2024 we announced our intention to fundraise in this current tax year 2024/25. This fundraise will be in conjunction with the other Northern VCTs and it is envisaged that the Company will seek to raise up to Â£15 million, with a total fund raising of up to Â£36 million across all Northern VCTs. Full details of how to participate in the fundraise will be published in January 2025.

We have maintained our policy of being willing to buy back the Companyâ€™s shares in the market when necessary in order to provide liquidity to our shareholders, at a 5% discount to NAV. During the period, a total of 3,538,346 shares were repurchased for cancellation, equivalent to approximately 1.7% of the opening share capital. As at 30 September 2024, the share price discount to NAV per share was 3.8%.

VCT qualifying status and legislation
The Company has continued to meet the stringent and complex qualifying conditions laid down by HM Revenue & Customs for maintaining its approval as a VCT. The Manager monitors the position closely and reports regularly to the Board. Philip Hare & Associates LLP has continued to act as independent adviser to the Company on VCT taxation matters.

As noted above, we are pleased to report that following final review by the European Union and the issuance of the necessary statutory instrument, in September 2024 the Sunset Clause was extended until 2035. The â€˜Sunset Clauseâ€™ is a European state aid requirement which, without extension, would have removed the VCT tax reliefs that investors receive on newly issued VCT shares.

Board of Directors
In accordance with the details outlined in our Annual Report, we were pleased to appoint Thomas Chambers to the Board in June 2024.

Outlook
We remain confident in the prospects of our portfolio companies and will continue to make the most of the opportunities for value creation as they arise.

The Board very much appreciates the continuing support of shareholders.

On behalf of the Board

David Gravells
Chair

Investment portfolio
As at 30 September 2024 (unaudited)

Â	Cost Â£000	Valuation Â£000	% of net assets by value
Fifteen largest venture capital investments	Â	Â	Â
Pure Pet Food	1,504	3,807	3.0%
Project Glow Topco (t/a Currentbody.com)	1,544	3,530	2.8%
Rockar	1,766	3,244	2.5%
Pimberly	1,876	3,188	2.5%
Tutora (t/a Tutorful)	3,023	3,023	2.4%
Newcells Biotech	2,741	2,741	2.1%
Grip-UK (t/a The Climbing Hangar)	3,536	2,568	2.0%
Netacea	2,486	2,486	1.9%
Ridge Pharma	1,387	2,396	1.9%
Biological Preparations Group	2,166	2,028	1.6%
Broker Insights	1,961	2,001	1.6%
Volumatic Holdings	216	1,869	1.5%
Administrate	2,629	1,855	1.5%
LMC Software	1,842	1,842	1.4%
Forensic Analytics	1,836	1,836	1.4%
Fifteen largest venture capital investments	**30,513**	**38,414**	**30.1%**
Other venture capital investments	49,824	39,642	31.1%
Total venture capital investments	**80,337**	**78,056**	**61.2%**
Net current assets	Â	49,489	38.8%
Net assets	Â	**127,545**	**100.0%**

Extracts from the unaudited half-yearly financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2024 are set out below.

Income statement
For the six months ended 30 September 2024 (unaudited)

	Six months ended 30 September 2024			Â	Six months ended 30 September 2023			Â	Year ended 31 March 2024		
Â	**Revenue Â£000**	**Capital Â£000**	**Total Â£000**	Â	Revenue Â£000	Capital Â£000	Total Â£000	Â	Revenue Â£000	Capital Â£000	Total Â£000
Gain on disposal of investments	**â€“**	**1,469**	**1,469**	Â	â€“	518	518	Â	â€“	933	933
Movements in fair value of investments	**â€“**	**884**	**884**	Â	â€“	1,533	1,533	Â	â€“	1,839	1,839
Â	**â€“**	**2,353**	**2,353**	Â	â€“	2,051	2,051	Â	â€“	2,772	2,772
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Dividend and interest income	**1,349**	**â€“**	**1,349**	Â	1,123	â€“	1,123	Â	2,738	â€“	2,738
Investment management fee	**(277)**	**(832)**	**(1,109)**	Â	(258)	(775)	(1,033)	Â	(515)	(1,545)	(2,060)

Other expenses	**(332)**	**â€“**	**(332)**	Â	(322)	â€“	(322)	Â	(602)	â€“	(602)
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Return before tax	**740**	**1,521**	**2,261**	Â	543	1,276	1,819	Â	1,621	1,227	2,848
Tax on return	**(187)**	**187**	**â€“**	Â	81	(81)	â€“	Â	73	(73)	â€“
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Return after tax	**553**	**1,708**	**2,261**	Â	624	1,195	1,819	Â	1,694	1,154	2,848
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Return per share	**0.2p**	**0.8p**	**1.0p**	Â	0.3p	0.6p	0.9p	Â	0.8p	0.6p	1.4p

Balance sheet
As at 30 September 2024 (unaudited)

Â	Â	**30 September 2024 Â£000**	30 September 2023 Â£000	31 March 2024 Â£000
Fixed assets	Â	Â	Â	Â
Investments	Â	**78,056**	66,265	75,779
Current assets	Â	Â	Â	Â
Debtors	Â	**640**	396	911
Cash and cash equivalents	Â	**49,023**	47,367	42,999
Â	Â	**49,663**	47,763	43,910
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	Â	**(174)**	(141)	(163)
Net current assets	Â	**49,489**	47,622	43,747
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Net assets	Â	**127,545**	113,887	119,526
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Capital and reserves	Â	Â	Â	Â
Called-up equity share capital	Â	**11,159**	9,722	10,434
Share premium	Â	**62,193**	43,847	52,737
Capital redemption reserve	Â	**1,256**	957	1,079
Capital reserve	Â	**54,405**	64,843	54,973
Revaluation reserve	Â	**(2,281)**	(6,195)	(853)
Revenue reserve	Â	**813**	713	1,156
Total equity shareholdersâ€™ funds	Â	**127,545**	113,887	119,526
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Net asset value per share	Â	**57.2p**	58.6p	57.3p

Statement of changes in equity
For the six months ended 30 September 2024 (unaudited)

	Non-distributable reserves				Â	**Distributable reserves**		Â	
Â	**Called-up share capital Â£000**	**Share premium Â£000**	**Capital redemption reserve Â£000**	**Revaluation reserve* Â£000**	Â	**Capital reserve Â£000**	**Revenue reserve Â£000**	Â	**Total Â£000**
At 1 April 2024	**10,434**	**52,737**	**1,079**	**(853)**	Â	**54,973**	**1,156**	Â	**119,526**
Return after tax	**â€“**	**â€“**	**â€“**	**(1,428)**	Â	**3,136**	**553**	Â	**2,261**
Dividends paid	**â€“**	**â€“**	**â€“**	**â€“**	Â	**(1,791)**	**(896)**	Â	**(2,687)**
Net proceeds of share issues	**902**	**9,456**	**â€“**	**â€“**	Â	**â€“**	**â€“**	Â	**10,358**
Shares purchased for cancellation	**(177)**	**â€“**	**177**	**â€“**	Â	**(1,913)**	**â€“**	Â	**(1,913)**
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
At 30 September 2024	**11,159**	**62,193**	**1,256**	**(2,281)**	Â	**54,405**	**813**	Â	**127,545**

Six months ended 30 September 2023

At 1 April 2023	**9,282**	**38,165**	**849**	**2,015**	Â	**59,176**	**89**	Â	**109,576**
Return after tax	â€“	â€“	â€“	(8,210)	Â	9,405	624	Â	1,819
Dividends paid	â€“	â€“	â€“	â€“	Â	(2,531)	â€“	Â	(2,531)
Net proceeds of share issues	548	5,682	â€“	â€“	Â	â€“	â€“	Â	6,230
Shares purchased for cancellation	(108)	â€“	108	â€“	Â	(1,207)	â€“	Â	(1,207)
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
At 30 September 2023	**9,722**	**43,847**	**957**	**(6,195)**	Â	**64,843**	**713**	Â	**113,887**

Year ended 31 March 2024

At 1 April 2023	9,282	38,165	849	2,015	Â	59,176	89	Â	109,576

Return after tax	â€“	â€“	â€“	(2,868)	Â	4,022	1,694	Â	2,848
Dividends paid	â€“	â€“	â€“	â€“	Â	(5,664)	(627)	Â	(6,291)
Net proceeds of share issues	1,382	14,572	â€“	â€“	Â	â€“	â€“	Â	15,954
Shares purchased for cancellation	(230)	â€“	230	â€“	Â	(2,561)	â€“	Â	(2,561)
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
At 31 March 2024	10,434	52,737	1,079	(853)	Â	54,973	1,156	Â	119,526

.

Statement of cash flows
For the six months ended 30 September 2024 (unaudited)

Â	Â	**Six months ended 30 September 2024 Â£000**	Six months ended 30 September 2023 Â£000	Year ended 31 March 2024 Â£000
Cash flows from operating activities	Â	Â	Â	Â
Return before tax	Â	**2,261**	1,819	2,848
Adjustments for:	Â	Â	Â	Â
Gain on disposal of investments	Â	**(1,469)**	(518)	(933)
Gain in fair value of investments	Â	**(884)**	(1,533)	(1,839)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	Â	Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â **271**	(278)	(85)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	Â	Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â **11**	(33)	(11)
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	Â	**190**	(543)	(20)
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Cash flows from investing activities	Â	Â	Â	Â
Purchase of investments	Â	**(5,940)**	(5,715)	(15,569)
Sale and repayment of investments	Â	Â Â Â Â Â Â Â **6,016**	21,815	22,168
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	Â	**76**	16,100	6,599
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Cash flows from financing activities	Â	Â	Â	Â
Issue of ordinary shares	Â	Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â **10,802**	6,389	16,507
Share issue expenses	Â	**(444)**Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â	(159)	(553)
Purchase of ordinary shares for cancellation	Â	**(1,913)**	(1,207)	(2,561)
Equity dividends paid	Â	**(2,687)**	(2,531)	(6,291)
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	Â	**5,758**	2,492	7,102
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	Â	**6,024**	18,049	13,681
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	Â	**42,999**	29,318	29,318
Â	Â	Â	Â	Â
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	Â	**49,023**	47,367	42,999

Risk management
The Board carries out a regular and robust assessment of the risk environment in which the Company operates and seeks to identify new risks as they emerge. The principal and emerging risks and uncertainties identified by the Board which might affect the Companyâ€™s business model and future performance, and the steps taken with a view to their mitigation, are as follows:

Credit risk: the Company holds a number of financial instruments and cash deposits and is dependent on the counterparties discharging their commitment. Such balances may be held with banks or in money market funds as part of the Companyâ€™s liquidity management.

Mitigation: the Directors review the creditworthiness of the counterparties to these instruments including the rating of money market funds to seek to manage and mitigate exposure to credit risk.

Economic and geopolitical risk: events such as economic recession or general fluctuation in stock markets, exchange rates and interest rates may affect the valuation of investee companies and their ability to access adequate financial resources, as well as affecting the Companyâ€™s own share price and discount to net asset value. The level of economic risk is assessed against macroeconomic factors such as inflation, interest rates and the ability of companies to raise funds in the capital and private markets. Â Â

Mitigation: the Company invests in a diversified portfolio of investments spanning various industry sectors and which are at different stages of growth. The Company maintains sufficient cash reserves to be able to provide additional funding to investee companies where it is appropriate and in the interests of the Company to do so. The Managerâ€™s team is structured such that appropriate monitoring and oversight is undertaken by an experienced investment executive. As part of this oversight, the investment executive will guide and support the board of each unquoted investee company. At all times, and particularly during periods of heightened economic uncertainty, the investment team of the Manager share best practice from across the portfolio with the management teams in order to help with addressing economic challenges.

Financial risk: most of the Companyâ€™s investments involve a medium to long-term commitment and many are illiquid.

Mitigation: the Directors consider that it is inappropriate to finance the Companyâ€™s activities through borrowing except on an occasional short-term basis. Accordingly they seek to maintain a proportion of the Companyâ€™s assets in cash or cash equivalents in order to be in a position to pursue new unquoted investment opportunities and to make follow-on investments in existing portfolio companies. The Company has very little direct exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into derivative transactions.

Investment and liquidity risk: the Company invests in early stage companies which may be pre-revenue at the point of investment. Portfolio companies may also require significant funds, through multiple funding rounds to develop their technology or the products being developed may be subject to regulatory approvals before they can be launched into the market. This involves a higher degree of risk and company failure compared to investment in larger companies with established business models. Early stage companies generally have limited product lines, markets and financial resources and may be more dependent on key individuals. The securities of companies in which the Company invests are typically unlisted, making them particularly illiquid and may represent minority stakes, which may cause difficulties in valuing and disposing of the securities. The Company may invest in businesses whose shares are quoted on AIM however this may not mean that they can be readily traded and the spread between the buying and selling prices of such shares may be wide.

Mitigation: the Directors aim to limit the investment and liquidity risk through regular monitoring of the investment portfolio and oversight of the Manager who is responsible for managing the funds in accordance with the Companyâ€™s investment objective. The investment and liquidity risks are mitigated through the careful selection, close monitoring and timely realisation of investments, by carrying out rigorous due diligence procedures and maintaining a wide spread of holdings in terms of financing stage and industry sector within the rules of the VCT scheme. The Board reviews the investment portfolio and liquidity with the Manager on a regular basis.

Legislative and regulatory risk: in order to maintain its approval as a VCT, the Company is required to comply with current VCT legislation in the UK. Changes to UK legislation in the future could have an adverse effect on the Companyâ€™s ability to achieve satisfactory investment returns whilst retaining its VCT approval.

Mitigation: the Board and the Manager monitor political developments and where appropriate seek to make representations either directly or through relevant trade bodies.

Operational risk: the Company does not have any employees and the Board relies on a number of third party providers, including the Manager, registrar. listed investments custodian, sponsor, receiving agent, lawyers and tax advisers, to provide it with the necessary services to operate. Such operations delegated to the Companyâ€™s key service providers may not be performed in a timely or accurate manner, resulting in reputational, regulatory, or financial damage. The risk of cyber-attack or failure of the systems and controls at any of the Companyâ€™s third party providers may lead to an inability to service shareholder needs adequately, to provide accurate reporting and accounting and to ensure adherence to all VCT legislation rules.

Mitigation: the Board has appointed an Audit and Risk Committee, who monitor the effectiveness of the system of internal controls, both financial and non-financial, operated by the Company and the Manager. These controls are designed to ensure that the Companyâ€™s assets are safeguarded and that proper accounting records are maintained. Third party suppliers are required to have in place their own risk and controls framework, business continuity plans and the necessary expertise and resources to ensure that a high quality service can be maintained even under stressed scenarios.

Stock market risk: a small proportion of the Companyâ€™s investments are quoted on AIM and will be subject to market fluctuations upwards and downwards. External factors such as terrorist activity, political activity or global health crises, can negatively impact stock markets worldwide. In times of adverse sentiment there may be very little, if any, market demand for shares in smaller companies quoted on AIM.

Mitigation: the Companyâ€™s small number of holdings of quoted investments are actively managed by the Manager, and the Board keeps the portfolio and the actions taken under ongoing review.

VCT qualifying status risk: while it is the intention of the Directors that the Company will be managed so as to continue to qualify as a VCT, there can be no guarantee that this status will be maintained. A failure to continue meeting the qualifying requirements could result in the loss of VCT tax relief, the Company losing its exemption from corporation tax on capital gains, to shareholders being liable to pay income tax on dividends received from the Company and, in certain circumstances, to shareholders being required to repay the initial income tax relief on their investment.

Mitigation: the Manager keeps the Companyâ€™s VCT qualifying status under continual review and its reports are reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis. The Board has also retained Philip Hare & Associates LLP to undertake an independent VCT status monitoring role.

The Board continually assesses and monitors emerging risks that could impact the Company's operations and strategic objectives. As part of the risk assessment process, the Board evaluates a wide range of potential threats and uncertainties that may arise from evolving market dynamics, regulatory changes, technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, geopolitical developments, and other external factors. By remaining aware of emerging risks, the Board ensures that the Company is better equipped to anticipate challenges and adapt swiftly to changing circumstances.

Other Matters

The unaudited half-yearly financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2024 do not constitute statutory financial statements within the meaning of Section 434 of the Companies Act 2006, have not been reviewed or audited by the Companyâ€™s independent auditor and have not been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The comparative figures for the year ended 31 March 2024 have been extracted from the audited financial statements for that year, which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the independent auditorâ€™s report on those financial statements (i) was unqualified, (ii) did not include any reference to matters to which the auditor drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying the report and (iii) did not contain a statement under Section 498 (2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006. The half-yearly financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Each of the Directors confirm that to the best of their knowledge the half-yearly financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement â€œHalf-yearly financial reportsâ€ issued by the UK Accounting Standards Board and the half-yearly financial report includes a fair review of the information required by (a) DTR 4.2.7R of the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules, being an indication of important events that have occurred during the first six months of the financial year and their impact on the condensed set of financial statements, and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties for the remaining six months of the year, and (b) DTR 4.2.8R of the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules, being related party transactions that have taken place in the first six months of the current financial year and that have materially affected the financial position or performance of the entity during that period, and any changes in the related party transactions described in the last annual report that could do so.

The directors of the company at the date of this statement were Mr D P A Gravells (Chair), Mr T W Chambers, Mr S P Devonshire, Miss C A McAnulty and Ms R K Ramparia.

The calculation of return per share is based on the return after tax for the six months ended 30 September 2024 and on 224,542,017 (30 September 2023: 195,318,553) ordinary shares, being the weighted average number of shares in issue during the period.

The calculation of net asset value per share is based on the net assets at 30 September 2024 divided by the 223,175,719 (30 September 2023: 194,443,120) ordinary shares in issue at that date.

The interim dividend of 1.7 pence per share for the year ending 31 March 2025 will be paid on 22 January 2025 to shareholders on the register on 20 December 2024.

Copies of this half-yearly report will be available to the public at the Companyâ€™s registered office, and on the Companyâ€™s website at www.mercia.co.uk/vcts/n2vct/.